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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /065 W
---------- 006595
R 301545Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5463
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: BALKAN CONFERENCE

1. YUGOSLAVS HAVE GENERALLY TAKEN CAUTIOUS LINE ABOUT MEANING OF BALKAN CONFERENCE, WELCOMING ATTEMPT BUT RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES IN THE PATH OF MEANINGFUL COOPERATION AT OTHER THAN TECHNICAL LEVEL. EDITORIAL IN MAIN MACEDONIAN NEWSPAPER BEFORE CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, STATED THAT CONFERENCE "WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY BE A MOVE TOWARDS AN INTER-BALKAN CONFERENCE ON A HIGHER LEVEL AND WITH POLITICAL DIMENSIONS". REPORT FROM ATHENS BY CORRESPONDENT OF BELGRADE'S "BORBA" ON SECOND DAY OF CONFERENCE LIKEWISE EXPRESSES SOME OPTIMISM ABOUT BROADER COOPERATION. CORRESPONDENT NOTES THAT EVEN TECHNICAL QUESTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND THAT THE DISCUSSIONS IN ATHENS MAY CONSTITUTE "A STEP FORWARD IN CREATING A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR UNDERSTANDING WITH CGARD TO SOME OTHER OPEN QUESTIONS". YUGOSLAV JOURNALIST TOLD EMBOFF TODAY HE EXPECTED A SECOND, AND "POLITICAL-
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LEVEL", FOR THE CONFERENCE, POSSIBLY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

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2. COMMENT: REFERENCES TO LIMITED POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS OF BALKAN COOPERATION ARE CONSISTENT WITH CAUTIOUS
ATTITUDE YUGOSLAVS HAGI MAINTAINED SINCE IDEA OF CONFERENCE WAS
ORIGINALLY BROACHED. YUGOSLAVS COULD NOT BUT BE FAVORABLE
TO BALKAN COOPERATION (HENCE JAN 27 IHT REPORT THAT
YUGOSLAV DELEGATE REFERRED TO CONFERENCE AS "LANDMARK"),
BUT THEIR LIMITED INITIAL EXPECTATIONS ARE APPARENT IN
THEIR EMPHASIS ON PRIMARILY TECHNICAL CHARACTER OF PRESENT
CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. SWEITZER

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